

ABSTRACTS OF STATE REPORTS

APRIL 2020

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Abstracts of Reports Required to be Filed With the General Assembly

The CGFA staff is required to prepare abstracts of reports required to be filed with the General Assembly. Legislators may receive copies of entire reports by emailing the form that was delivered to their Springfield office to isinfo@ilsos.net or by mailing it to the State Government Report Distribution Center at the Illinois State Library. Abstracts are posted monthly.

Attorney General, Office of the

Collection statistics, 2019

State agencies referred 19,038 collections cases for \$87.4 million to the Attorney General (87.2% from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services). Total collections (including older cases) were \$329.5 million. Referrals are reported by agency. (30 ILCS 205/2(j); Jan. 2020, rec'd Feb. 2020, 2 pp.)

Auditor General

State Actuary report on pension systems, 2019

The report contains actuarial assumptions and valuations of 6 state-funded retirement systems. Interest rate and inflation assumptions used to calculate state contributions to the systems were found reasonable. Required state contributions for fiscal year 2020 are \$4.81 billion to TRS, \$1.86 billion to SURS, \$2.29 billion to SERS, \$144.2 million to JRS, \$25.8 million to GARS, and \$245.5 million

to the Chicago Transit Pension Fund—totaling \$9.39 billion. (30 ILCS 5/2-8.1(c) and 40 ILCS 5/22-101(e); issued & rec'd Dec. 2019, 258 pp. + 3 appendices)

Central Management Services, Dept. of

Bilingual needs and pay survey, FY 2019

In FY 2019, the number of state employees in bilingual positions was 1,856 (14% fewer than the preceding year). CMS changed the report's format for it to be read along with the interactive Bilingual Dashboard, which at press time had data for FY 2013 through FY 2018:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/cms/personnel/DEP/Pages/BNBP.aspx>

CMS reports that it continues to ensure equal access to state services, by methods including agency collection of data and ensuring public awareness of availability of free bilingual

services. The report describes CMS's strategies to eliminate limited English proficiency as a barrier to equal access to state services. (20 ILCS 415/9(6); issued & rec'd Jan. 2020, 16 pp.)

Hiring of ex-offenders by state vendors, 2019

All state bid invitations must encourage state vendors to hire ex-offenders, and vendors must self-report on those employed. No vendors reported hiring ex-offenders in 2019. Technological limitation prevents direct communication with all registered vendors. System improvements planned for 2020 would allow CMS to do so. (30 ILCS 500/45-70; undated, rec'd Jan. 2020, 2 pp.)

Hiring of veterans by state vendors, 2019

All state bid invitations must encourage state vendors to hire veterans, and vendors are to self-report on those employed. Four vendors reported hiring a total of 7 veterans in 2019.

Technological limitation prevents direct communication with all registered vendors. System improvements planned for 2020 would allow CMS to do so. (30 ILCS 500/45-67; undated, rec'd Jan. 2020, 2 pp.)

State employee child care centers, 2019

Illinois has two on-site child care centers for employees' children, in Springfield and Chicago. The Chicago center (in the Bilandic Building) cares for children ages 2 through 12. In addition to year-round care, it provides a summer camp for school-aged children. Average enrollment is 73 and there is a waiting list. The Springfield center (in the Willard Ice Building) cares for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Average enrollment is 38 and there is a long waiting list. Both facilities offer full-time and part-time care. State employees can use flexible spending accounts for child care costs. In 2019, about 2,300 employees statewide contributed over \$8.2 million to their flex-spending accounts. (30 ILCS 590/3; undated, rec'd Jan. 2020, 4 pp.)

State-owned & surplus real property, 2019

No surplus real property was conveyed by CMS in 2019. (30 ILCS 605/7.1(e); issued & rec'd Jan. 2020, 1 pp. + 33 files on disk)

State printing report summary, FY 2019

CMS reports that 1,706 copies

of state agency annual reports were printed in FY 2019, at a total cost of \$1,648. The number of agencies having reports printed by outside printers has dropped sharply—primarily because online publication has become the preferred mechanism for distributing reports. (30 ILCS 500/25-55; undated, rec'd Jan. 2020, 2 pp.)

State Use Program annual report, FY 2019

The program develops employment for people with disabilities by contracting with nonprofit organizations for goods and services. In FY 2019, 1,950 jobs were created through 247 such contracts, down from 2,515 jobs in FY 2018. About 988,000 hours of work were done under such contracts, up from around 968,000 the preceding year. State agencies spent \$72 million on state use contracts in FY 2019, down from \$74.8 million in FY 2018. (30 ILCS 500/45-35(c)(4); undated, rec'd Jan. 2020, 3 pp.)

Children and Family Services, Dept. of

Administration of psychotropic medications to children, FY 2019

DCFS reports annually on the prescription by doctors, or administration by facilities, of psychotropic drugs to children in foster care without the DCFS Guardian's consent (in violation of the law). There were 18 violations in FY 2019 involving 22 medications

that were out of compliance. For the 19,560 psychotropic medication requests in FY 2019, the compliance rate was 99.9%. Some 75.1% were approved as written, 12.9% were modified, 9.5% were rescinded by the provider, and 2.6% were denied. (20 ILCS 535/15; Dec. 2019, rec'd Jan. 2020, 2 pp.)

Inspector General's report, FY 2019

In FY 2019, 123 child deaths met review criteria, leading to 13 full investigations. Twenty-four cases were referred for Child Welfare Employee License investigations; 3,427 cases requesting criminal background information were opened; and 76 investigation referrals were received from the Office of the Executive Inspector General. The hotline took 930 calls, including 127 requests for investigation. The report summarizes the child death investigations, circumstances of all reported deaths, and general investigations conducted. It also makes recommendations on discipline and systematic change; provides updates on past recommendations; and describes efforts related to reducing errors and addressing employee misfeasance. (20 ILCS 505/35.5 (h); issued & rec'd Jan. 2020, 286 pp. + 1 appendix)

Commerce Commission

Electricity, gas, water, and sewer utilities annual report, 2019

Major electric utilities' 2018

average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) were: Commonwealth Edison, 11.88¢; MidAmerican Energy, 7.98¢; Ameren Illinois, 9.00¢; and Mt. Carmel Public Utility Company (MCPU), 14.66¢. Major gas utilities' 2018 average prices per therm were: MidAmerican Energy, 58.90¢; Nicor Gas, 53.59¢; North Shore Gas, 72.01¢; Peoples Gas Light and Coke, 96.77¢; Ameren Illinois, 91.90¢; Consumers Gas, 70.15¢; Illinois Gas, 70.75¢; Liberty Utilities, 97.04¢; and MCPU, 101.86¢. The report includes a review of Commission activities, examinations of the utility industry and energy planning, and reports on the effects of federal actions on state utility services. It had no specific recommendations for legislative actions. (220 ILCS 5/4-304; issued & rec'd Jan. 2020, 57 pp. + 2 appendices)

Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Dept. of
Build Illinois revolving funds, FY 2019

On June 30, 2019 the Illinois Capital Revolving Loan Fund had almost \$2.06 million; the Large Business Attraction Fund had \$358,097; and the Illinois Equity Fund had \$845,257. (30 ILCS 750/9-9 and 750/10-9; issued & rec'd Dec. 2019, 7 pp.)

Live Theater Tax Credit report, July-Sept. 2019

The report lists no live theater spending, production, or jobs brought to Illinois during the quarter. No assessment can

be made since no credits were issued. (35 ILCS 17/10-50(b); undated, rec'd Dec. 2019, 1 p.)

Illinois Film Office quarterly report, July-Sept. 2019

The Illinois Film Office estimates that 4,360 technical crew, 442 production office, 493 talent, and 5,295 extra jobs were created or retained. (Figures may be for projects dating back to 2014.) Of 4,613 crew members hired, 29% were minorities and 19% were white women. Reported production spending was \$83.5 million (\$21.9 million commercial; \$56.3 million TV; and \$5.3 million film). The Office is unable to track vendor jobs. It encourages educational opportunities for minorities to be trained for film and television work. (35 ILCS 16/45(b); undated, rec'd Dec. 2019, 2 pp.)

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Wagering in Illinois, 2019 Update

State tax revenues from wagering were \$1.404 billion, up 3.5% from FY 2018. Total gaming revenues were as follows: 52.4% lottery, 28.1% video gaming, 19.2% casinos, and 0.4% horse racing. Lottery transfers to the Common School Fund increased 1.7% from FY 2018. Total lottery sales rose 1.7%, mainly due to Mega Millions and instant games sales. Video gaming collected \$398 million in tax

revenue for the Capital Projects Fund and \$80 million for local governments. Numbers of video gaming terminals rose from 29,283 in 2018 to 32,033, with the largest number in Cook County (5,693). Gaming-related revenue from riverboat casinos fell 17.9% since FY 2012; but the sum of riverboat plus video gaming receipts rose 79.2% over that time. Horse racing continued to decline; 2018 revenues were 29.9% less than amounts in the last decade. (S. Res. 875 [1991]; Sept. 2019, rec'd Jan. 2020, 94 pp.)

Community College Board, State Board of Education, and Workforce Innovation Board
Perkins and WIOA Alignment Report

The report contains strategies for how the three entities will address legislative recommendations in their draft plans for the federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act and federal Workforce Investment Opportunity Act. The General Assembly made 7 recommendations to be addressed, including that the three entities collaborate among themselves and with school districts, community colleges, business and industry, and other organizations to ensure alignment of their plans. (H. Res. 371 [2019]; Nov. 2019, rec'd Dec. 2019, 6 pp.)

Environmental Protection**Agency**

Groundwater Protection Program biennial report, 2018-2019

Since October 2000, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has regularly sampled 32 wells at the western end of the Mahomet Aquifer, finding a high occurrence of nitrates. Therefore the Illinois EPA got federal funding for a groundwater monitoring project in that area. It sampled 29 private wells near a natural gas leak from a well near the Mt. Simon Aquifer; 6 were contaminated. Of 55 water samples from private wells near the Sterigenics facility, none showed signs of groundwater contamination. The EPA provided significant support to the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force in 2018. It also reviewed and approved one Groundwater Management Zone proposal, and is negotiating 6 more with parties responsible for groundwater contamination. (415 ILCS 55/4; issued & rec'd Jan. 2020, 24 pp.)

Illinois PANDAS/PANS**Advisory Council**

Report, 2019

The Advisory Council was created in 2015 to make recommendations for standard practices for, and to raise awareness of, Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS). The

report gives background on the conditions and their incidence in Illinois; criteria for diagnosis; treatment guidelines; current research; and efforts to increase clinical awareness, including a 2019 law requiring PANDAS/PANS to be coded as autoimmune encephalitis for billing and diagnostic purposes until the American Medical Association and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services create a specific code for those conditions. The report also recommends continuing to educate the public on both conditions. (20 ILCS 2310/2310-676(e); Dec. 2019, rec'd Jan. 2020, 21 pp.)

Labor, Dept. of

Child Labor Law annual report, 2019

The Department administers the Law using a toll-free hotline and a paperless permitting process. In FY 2019, schools and their agents issued 21,052 employment certificates. The Department received and approved 2,227 requests for hour restriction waivers for children working in motion picture or related entertainment productions. It held one informal settlement conference, collecting \$2,425 in penalties. It continued outreach and educational efforts. (820 ILCS 205/18.2; undated, rec'd Jan. 2020, 2 pp.)

Equal Pay Act report, 2019

The Department received 27 new equal pay complaints and investigated 43, including some from 2018. Total back

wages paid in 2019 were \$23,014. Twenty complaints were dismissed, about half of them because they did not involve gender-based wage discrimination. (820 ILCS 112/50; Dec. 2019, rec'd Jan. 2020, 3 pp.)

Labor Relations Board

Illinois Police Training Act semi-annual report, July-Dec. 2019

The Board had no verified complaints, investigations, hearings, or officers decertified under the Police Training Act. (50 ILCS 705/6.1(r); issued & rec'd Jan. 2020, 1 p.)

Legislative Reference Bureau

Illinois delegation to National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, 2019

The Commissioners study proposed laws and recommend some for adoption by the states. They proposed three new acts in 2019: Uniform Automated Operation of Vehicles Act; Uniform Electronic Wills Act; and Uniform Registration of Canadian Money Judgments Act. They also proposed amendments to the Uniform Athlete Agents Act and Uniform Probate Code. (25 ILCS 135/5.07; issued and rec'd Dec. 2019, 23 pp.)

Property Tax Appeal Board

Annual report, 2019

The report presents data by county for recent years on commercial and industrial property tax assessment appeals and any resulting assessment reductions. The Board also

closed some 19,196 residential appeals involving 24,603 properties in 2019. (Synopsis of representative cases are at www.ptab.illinois.gov or available from the PTAB office.) (35 ILCS 200/16-190(b); issued & rec'd Feb. 2020, 12 pp.)

Public Health, Dept. of
Health and Hazardous Substances Registry annual report, FY 2019

The registry collects and analyzes data on selected public health concerns and hazardous exposures. In FY 2019, it received \$1.64 million in federal funds and nearly \$27,500 from other sources. It responded to 15 general information requests; 43 requests for epidemiological reports and registry data; 19 special data requests or collaborations with outside researchers; and 9 inquiries on perceived high local cancer rates—including conducting a comprehensive cancer assessment in Willowbrook. It released 1 research paper in the Illinois Morbidity and Mortality Bulletin, 1 report in the Epidemiologic Report Series, and 6 reports for quality control studies of registry data. It also made 5 grant proposals; authored or co-authored 4 papers for peer-reviewed journals; and contributed data in 19 published studies by outside researchers. The report also reviews activities and progress toward FY 2019 goals and lists FY 2020 goals. (410 ILCS 525/8; Nov. 2019, rec'd Jan. 2020, 39 pp.)

State Board of Education

Annual report, 2019

Estimated FY 2020 appropriations for elementary and secondary education are about \$829 million more than in FY 2019. Average class sizes rose slightly at most levels from 2009 to 2019. Minority-group students make up 52.4% of Illinois students; 17.4% of teachers are non-white; students who are English learners rose from 8% in 2009 to 12.1%; and the percentage who are low-income rose from 42.9% in 2009 to 48.8%. Total enrollment declined about 130,000 from 2009 to 2019. Career and technical education programs enrolled 284,680 students in 2019, up nearly 5,000 from 2016. Students taking dual credit, advanced placement, and International Baccalaureate courses rose by 10,000 from 2016; minority students make up 48% of students enrolled in AP courses (up 5 percentage points from 2016). AP exam pass rates increased from 65.9% in 2016 to 68.4% in 2019. The report also gives numerous additional statistics related to public education. (105 ILCS 5/1A-4E; issued & rec'd Jan. 2020, 59 pp.)

Charter school biennial report, 2017-18 and 2018-19

Illinois' 61 charter schools serve 64,419 students. In both 2017-18 and 2018-19, they served a student population that was 96.8% minority—about twice the percentage served by all

public schools in Illinois. The 4-year graduation rate for all charter schools in 2019 was 74.7%, versus 86.7% for other public schools. ISBE's survey of charter schools found that the main statutory change schools want is additional funding. The report gives student assessment results by school on 2018-19 tests, and lists data from 2018-19 by campus. (105 ILCS 5/27A-12; issued & rec'd Jan. 2020, 95 pp.)

English Learners in Illinois, school year 2017-18

School districts enrolled over 217,000 English Learner students in 2017-18. Some 536 districts implemented Transitional Bilingual Education, and 451 offered Transitional Programs of Instruction. Over 7,000 teachers had bilingual endorsements and 18,445 had ESL endorsements (a teacher may have more than one endorsement). About 87% of English Learner students were in schools in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, or Will County. Spanish is the most common language spoken by English Learner students, followed by Arabic and Polish. Over half of English Learner students were in grades K-4. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.39; July 2019, rec'd Jan. 2020, 12 pp.)

Attendance Commission report, 2019

The Commission, created to study chronic school absenteeism, made eight recommendations: (1) study

implementation of the newly defined school day in 2020 to assess its adequacy; (2) continue using Ed360 to track patterns of chronic absenteeism; (3) continue using chronic absence data as an accountability factor in determining school quality; (4) continue using tiered attendance supports in schools; (5) implement the advisories in the Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee report; (6) expand schools' protocols for communicating with families whose children have poor attendance numbers or parents who may be reluctant to engage; (7) continue encouraging statewide adoption of the "Every Child, Every Day" campaign; and (8) encourage all school districts to state school attendance policies clearly. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(d); Dec. 2019, rec'd Jan. 2020, 54 pp. + 18 appendices)

State Police, Dept. of

Juvenile charge report, July-Sept. 2019

The Department received 6,330 juvenile charge reports: 530

ordinance violations; 242 petty offenses; 2,921 Class A to C misdemeanors; 1,864 Class 1 to 4 felonies; 218 Class X felonies; and 7 murders; 548 were not identified. By gender, 5,208 were male and 1,122 were female. By race, 4,064 were African American; 1,257 white; 906 Hispanic; 29 Asian; 1 American Indian; and 73 unidentified. The report also lists ages at arrest and disposition, and total charges by county. (20 ILCS 2605/2605-355; Nov. 2019, rec'd Dec. 2019, 4 pp.)

Rapid DNA report

The report describes Rapid DNA (a fully automated process for developing a DNA profile from a cheek swab) and related FBI policies. The agency anticipated beginning use of Rapid DNA on known reference samples within the FBI's restrictions in November 2019. The agency recommended that a task force be assembled after the FBI publishes requirements for implementing Rapid DNA

in booking stations, to see how Illinois would participate. Barriers to reducing the DNA sample backlog include a long state hiring process, reduced funding, and a complex state procurement process. The agency currently employs 63 fully trained forensic scientists in its Biology program (which includes screening and DNA analysis) but needs 90. The program cost the state \$20.5 million in FY 2019, up 16.5% from 2018. (2019 H.J.R. 7; Sept. 2019, rec'd Dec. 2019, 5 pp.)

State's Attorney of Franklin County

Franklin County eavesdropping requests and authorizations, 2019

The 18 eavesdropping requests for delivery of methamphetamine and 4 requests for delivery of controlled substances were all approved by the state's attorney's office. (720 ILCS 5/14-3(q)(3.10); issued & rec'd Jan. 2020, 1 p.)

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